



# NYSSMA®

*A State Unit of NAFME, National Association for Music Education*

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June 2021

Colleagues — **Congratulations!** You just made it through the possible the most unprecedented school year ever. From not being able to sing in an elementary music classroom, to twelve-foot spacing in cohort ensembles, air recirculation, bell covers, synchronous and asynchronous instruction, Zoom, Google meet — you were there for your students! You made connections and made someone's education more meaningful. Music Educators make a difference!

NYSSMA President, Dr. David Brown recently said "Music Education might be the most affected discipline because of the pandemic." The Arts have suffered in schools, in concert halls, in theaters. Please continue to advocate for your programs. Have conversations with school administrators, school board members, elected officials. Let them know why the arts are important. Let them know how music education makes a student's life whole.

Thank you for all that you have done during the past 15-16 months for students and for music programs. Please enjoy the summer, taking time to **Revive, Refresh and Renew**. Yes, that is the theme for the NYSSMA Summer Conference. Information can be found online. Registration is \$35 (free for retirees). Hopefully you can "attend" on August 15-17. There are sessions for band, chorus, orchestra, general music, collegiate students, and administrators. There are even performance opportunities. Please consider playing in the director's orchestra or director's band. If you need help figuring this out, just ask (I have compiled a few virtual ensembles during the past year).

## **Best Wishes to our retirees - Congratulations to the Class of 2021!**

There is a lot of information below, please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the details,

I hope you have a wonderful, relaxing summer.

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## **Area-All State Update:**

The creation of EdLaw2D has put a damper on area all-state applications. NYSSMA is trying to figure out the safest way to collect / manage student information. So ....Applications are on hold until September. There will likely be a September 15 deadline. More information should be available towards the end of the summer. If you are looking to begin collecting information, you can use the 2019 paper application as a template. **Please do not submit any applications at this time.**

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Dates are set and festivals are tentatively scheduled for:

Junior High - November 5 & 6 in Lyndonville, Jennifer Trupo, festival chair

Band: Jared Chase, conductor

Chorus: Dennis Creighton, conductor

Orchestra: Edie Shilitoe, conductor

Senior High - November 19 & 20 in East Irondequoit, Eric Traugott, festival chair

Band: William Lake, conductor

Mixed Chorus: Jason Holmes, conductor

Orchestra: Katherine Kilburn, conductor

Treble Chorus: Philip Silvey, conductor

## Solo Festival Follow-up

The last date to find your NYSSMA Festival Season 2021 data on both DaCapo and MusicFirst will be **June 30**. Both websites will be removing all data on July 1. Please make sure you save a copy of the PDF or print out the evaluation. Once the system is purged, the sheet will not be available.

## American Rescue Plan Funds (aka Covid relief):

Do you know how much federal stimulus money your district is receiving? Do you know how the district plans to spend the money? Do you know that this money is available for the next three years? There are specific criteria for the use of this money. All money needs to be earmarked by June 30. Once again, here is where advocacy comes in. Have those conversations with your district leaders, ask about the federal money. Here are some ideas: theater upgrades that incorporate streaming technology, air circulation and filtration in rehearsal rooms, staffing (but remember this is not a permanent revenue source), summer programs to help offset the loss of instruction, etc.

## NYSSMA Manual

There is a one-year extension on the current (yellow insert) NYSSMA Manual. We will continue to use edition 32 until June 30, 2022.

## Conference All-State

As of June 14, 2021 ... plans are in place for an in-person winter conference and all-state groups. Due to hotel closures and anticipated restrictions there are some changes to the composition of all-state groups.

NYSSMA is planning to have 5 ensembles for All-State: Symphonic Band, Symphonic Orchestra, Mixed Chorus, Instrumental Jazz, Vocal Jazz.

Students will be housed no more than 2 to a room at three different locations.

There are two all-state concerts scheduled:

Saturday, December 4, 7:30 PM - Vocal Jazz, Instrumental Jazz, Mixed Chorus

Sunday, December 5, 10 AM - Band and Orchestra

## NYSSMA Curriculum Committee

The NYSSMA Curriculum Committee is looking lessons for the searchable, web-based document we are developing, *Innovative Instruction for Standards-Based Music Learning*

Dear NYSSMA Member,

The NYSSMA Curriculum Committee is beginning work on *Innovative Instruction for Standards-Based Learning* (a revised and updated version of *Music: A Resource Guide for Standards-Based Instruction*, 2002). This new document will contain instructional ideas that reflect the 2017 *New York State Learning Standards for the Arts* and will be a searchable, web-based document. In searching for a lesson that addresses specific elements (such as strand, grade level, standard, etc.), a music educator would check the appropriate box(es) on the form, which would produce appropriate lesson(s).

Clearly, for this document to be most valuable, a sufficient quantity and variety of lessons would be needed to allow a number of possibilities to be requested. As we continue developing this exciting project, we invite you to contribute to this innovative venture.

This has been an incredible year in so many ways. It's clear that teachers all over the state have developed new lessons, discovered fresh resources, and have designed so many original and creative ways to provide motivation and instruction to music students. The Curriculum Committee would love for you to use this [link](#) and submit your lesson(s) to be included in this compendium (this link can also be found on the Curriculum Committee web page at <https://www.nyssma.org/committees/curriculum-committee> ). What an incredible way for you to share your work as you connect with your colleagues throughout the state!

We are delighted to share with you this opportunity to be part of a valuable, new teacher resource that will enhance standards-based music instruction in New York State. Please contact Fred Weingarten at: [nyssmacurrcomm@gmail.com](mailto:nyssmacurrcomm@gmail.com) should you require further clarification, or if you have any questions.

## Advocating for Music

The NYS Assembly and Senate are currently in recess for the summer. This is a great time to schedule meetings with elected officials and advocate for music. There is currently [Assembly Bill 1788](#) and [Senate Bill 4525](#) (these are the same bill) that advocates for music. Simply put, this bill Adds arts and music education as a common school

branch that should be incorporated into the public school curriculum to provide a more well-rounded education for children. Basically music is currently regulated by the commissioner of education. This bill would make it a law (statutory) to include music. Please see if your elected official is a co-sponsor. Please consider writing, calling, emailing, or meeting in-person with your assembly member and/or senator to discuss this bill. As for them to co-sponsor this legislation.